

Cheryl Clark

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I want to thank Senator Looney, Representative Janowski and members of the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee for inviting me to testify before you today. I also extend my sincere thanks to Governor Jodi Rell for her confidence in my ability to serve as a champion for civil rights in the great State of Connecticut. It would be my honor to serve once again in this capacity.

For the record, I come before you today for reconsideration as a CHRO Commissioner. An unfortunate series of events compromised the completion of my first term. On March 23<sup>rd</sup> of last year, I suffered a debilitating stroke that resulted from a brain hemorrhage. For some time I could not fully demonstrate that, I had retained any cognitive ability. I never expected to be healthy enough to continue my Commission role so I resigned. Nevertheless, since that pivotal event, I have recovered sufficiently to resume my Commission responsibilities and I cannot tell you how grateful I am for the opportunity.

You have been given a copy of my resume. To summarize, I bring to the role of CHRO Commissioner a strong mix of leadership, management skills and proven ability to achieve results. During the course of my employment, I had a number of assignments that prepared me for the Commission including a stint as a business agent for a Teamsters local. In that capacity, I was tasked with correctly interpreting union regulations and defending grievances for members of the local. These responsibilities are most closely aligned with the requirements of CHRO Commissioner.

In my current work assignment, I am employed at Northeast Utilities as a supplier relations specialist where I have worked extensively with the ethnic minorities, women, veterans and disabled veteran owned businesses to provide access and opportunity to NU's supply chain. I maintain a board seat on the Greater

New England Minority Supplier Development Council and membership in the Women's Business Enterprise National Council.

Since joining NU, I have championed change throughout the organization and contributed to NU's operating successes in supplier relations. In 2007, I received an individual advocate award as well as the corporate award for my company that recognized my efforts in supplier diversity. In this capacity, I am the company's single point of contact for vendor relations.

I feel personally responsible to manage the success of diverse businesses. During my first term on the Commission, I facilitated an agreement between CHRO and a minority contractor from Middletown who had to file his first state Affirmative Action Plan. I think I made a positive contribution during the initial phase of my tenure and I would like to continue advocacy for the people of CT. I am truly heartened by the current membership of the Commission and am quite convinced that we will be successful in our efforts to support the people of Connecticut. If my small contribution can make a difference, I would like a chance to try again. Thank you for your time and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.